

Altman RB, Clubb SL, Dorrestein GM, Queensberry K. *Avian Medicine and Surgery*. WB Saunders Company, Toronto, 1997. 1070 pp. ISBN 0-7216-5446-0. \$138.00.

This text is a welcome literary addition to the field of avian medicine, more specifically to pet bird medicine. The emphasis is on psittacines, which is usually the major portion of clinical practice, but there are also sections on the common problems of other families, such as passerines, columbiformes, and raptors.

The text is divided into 9 sections. The 1st section deals with "The Normal Bird." Chapters cover a variety of topics from nutrition to pediatric husbandry and medicine. The chapter on "Laws and Regulations Affecting Aviculture and the Pet Bird Industry" is particularly useful for those just getting involved in avian medicine.

Section 2 deals with diagnostics, hospital techniques, and supportive care. Here the day-to-day procedures in clinical practice are discussed. Section 3 deals with infectious diseases. Section 4, on noninfectious diseases, uses a systems approach, which will be familiar to many Ontario Veterinary College graduates. For example, the chapter on the gastrointestinal tract is split into anatomy, physiology, and then diseases.

Section 5 covers pharmacology and therapeutics, and includes a formulary. Because most drugs used in avian medicine are "off-label," it is helpful to have dosages for a large number of drugs. As more drugs are used in different species, it is becoming apparent that metabolism of drugs can vary, and clinicians should use caution when treating uncommon species of birds.

The surgical section has 2 particularly good chapters on beak repair. The last 3 sections cover emergency medicine, specific species, and the human-avian bond.

The appendices cover hematology and biochemical reference ranges, adult bird weights, and scientific names of common species. As this is an American text, the reference ranges are in conventional units, as opposed to SI units. To their credit, the authors have included an appendix for conversions to SI units, but if this is meant to be an "international" text, I feel it would have been worth the extra few pages to print the reference values in both units.

Overall, this is a very informative text, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in avian medicine.

*Reviewed by Robin Roscoe, DVM, Dipl. ABVP (Avian),
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Marder A. *The Complete Dog Owner's Manual: How to Raise a Happy, Healthy Dog*. Broadway Books, New York, 1997. 224 pp. ISBN 0-7679-0001-4. \$25.00 US.

Written by a veterinarian for present and prospective dog owners, this book is a comprehensive, highly informative, and superbly illustrated guide to all aspects of owning and loving a dog. Information ranges from choosing the right dog to feeding tips to health care and training, and gives lots of good, practical advice. The book also includes a detailed guide to more than 100 popular dog breeds. The table of contents divides the book into its 5 logical components, choosing your dog, health care, training, breeding and showing, and guide to breeds. In addition, there is a glossary of "dog world" terms, a well-organized and comprehensive index, and a directory of information. The latter includes street addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses for kennel clubs, humane societies, and veterinary associations for North America, Great Britain, and Australia.

In the first section, the author recognizes the rewarding experience that can result from the relationship between a person and a dog. To give this relationship the best chance of success, a pet must be chosen carefully, considering the person's lifestyle, home environment, and family needs. Whether to choose a puppy or a mature dog

is covered in considerable detail and emphasizes the importance of selecting a healthy animal.

Health is described in easily understood terms that are applied to the dog's visible parts from the nose to the tip of the tail. Sound advice is provided on preparing for the arrival of the new dog. The basic accessories are discussed from the perspective of an appropriate bed, food and water bowls, collars, leashes, and identification tags. Because puppies and dogs can get themselves into a lot of trouble, methods of dog-proofing the home are dealt with in a logical and practical manner. Because the author is a veterinarian, the information given on nutrition and feeding, exercising, grooming, and whether or not to neuter is accurate and credible. The section on health care emphasizes the importance of having your dog checked by a veterinarian, while providing the dog owner with the tools to detect illness in his or her pet. The signs of good health are compared with symptoms of the common canine ailments ranging from obstructed anal glands to flea infestations to serious illnesses, such as acute gastric torsion. Prevention of disease and illness is stressed and first aid techniques are recommended for the common emergencies, such as heatstroke, choking, suspected poisoning, and other types of accidents.

The book deals with training, breeding, and showing of dogs in a well illustrated step-by-step guide. How dogs

learn is related to behaviour, house training, and basic obedience training. Positive reinforcement techniques are balanced against the occasional need to reprimand a dog for bad behavior. Ways to combat some of the common behavioural problems are suggested.

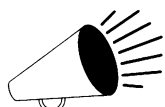
More than half of the book is devoted to a guide to the breeds of dogs. This section is beautifully illustrated, beginning with a history of the domestic dog and its evolution, which paralleled the development of human civilization. The breeds are presented in the following groups: sporting dogs, hounds, working dogs, terriers, toy dogs, nonsporting dogs, and herding dogs. Each breed is discussed under the titles of history, description, temperament, grooming requirements, exercise and feeding requirements, and health problems common to the

breed. Of particular value is a summary that rates the breed regarding intelligence, friendliness, grooming and exercise requirements, value as a watch dog, and some of the breed's commonly recognized faults or problems.


This book would be a nice addition to the waiting room of busy veterinary clinics, where clients could browse while awaiting their turn in the examination room. Practices may also find it useful to loan or sell a copy to new dog owners, as a practical way of instructing them on how to raise a happy and healthy dog.

Reviewed by Bill Bulmer, DVM, 823 Emerald Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J 4J2.

COMING EVENTS



ÉVÉNEMENTS À VENIR



**CVMA Conventions/
Congrès de l'ACMV**

1999
Calgary, Alberta
July/juillet 28-31

2000
Saint John, New Brunswick
July/juillet 5-8

2001
Vancouver, British Columbia
August/Août 4-11

NOVEMBER/NOVEMBRE 1998

Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association Biennial Congress. November 1-5, 1998 in Georgetown, Guyana. Registration: \$175 US. Contact: Guyana Veterinary Association, P.O. Box 10851, Georgetown, Guyana, South America; tel./fax: 592-2-56281, 63020; e-mail: gva@guyana.net.gy.

2nd International Conference on Emerging Zoonoses. November 5-9, 1998 in Strasbourg, France. Language: English. Contact: Target Tours Ltd., P.O. Box 29041, Tel Aviv 61290 Israel; tel.: +972 3 5175150; fax: +972 3 5175155; e-mail: trgt@netvision.net.il.

2nd Annual ContinEd Equine Veterinary Symposium. November 7-12, 1998 at the Hyatt Regency Kauai - Resort at Poipu Beach, Island of Kauai, Hawaii. Interactive continuing education in equine internal medicine and surgery. Discounts on airfare, hotel accommodations, and rental cars are available; there is also a discount for early registration. Contact: ContinEd, P.O. Box 1659,

Mercer Island, Washington 98040 USA; tel.: 1 (800) 539-7395 or (206) 230-8363; fax: (206) 230-8359; e-mail: VetCE@aol.com.

American Animal Hospital Association - Strategies for Buying and Selling Practices. November 12-15, 1998 in Denver, Colorado. Registration fee: \$495 US for AAHA members, \$600 US for non-members. Contact: AAHA, Member Service Centre; tel: (800) 883-6301 or (303) 968-2800.

American Animal Hospital Association - Veterinary Management Development School (Human Resources Module). November 13-14, 1998 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Leadership, team building, compensation and employment law. Registration fee: \$349 US for AAHA members, \$489 US for non-members. Contact: AAHA, Member Service Centre; tel: (800) 883-6301 or (303) 968-2800.

12th Annual Veterinary Dental Forum. November 19-22, 1998 at Hotel Inter-Continental New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Sessions: basic and intermediate lectures, hands on laboratories, case reports, clinical studies, and dentistry-related exhibits. A one-day track is designed for veterinary technicians. Contact: Dee Ann Walker, CAE Manager, Veterinary Dental Forum, 530 Church Street, Suite 700, Nashville, Tennessee 37219 USA; tel.: (625) 254-3687; fax: (615) 254-7047.

Small Animal Echocardiography Ultrasound Workshop. November 21-22, 1998 in Bedford Hills, NY. Two-day advanced and intensive echocardiography dual tract workshop, 17 CE credits awarded. Contact: Marion Peles at Universal Seminars, Inc., 299 Adams Street, Bedford Hills, NY 10507. Tel: 914-666-8664 or 800-842-0607; Fax: 914-666-2454; E-mail: mvbush@juno.com

Fourth Asia-Pacific Poultry Health Conference. November 22-27, 1998 in Melbourne, Australia. Theme: Improving Productivity in a Changing World. Visit the conference website: www.avpa.cia.com.au. Contact: Margaret Reid Pty Ltd., P.O. Box 341, Neutral Bay Junction, New South Wales 2089 Australia; fax: 61 2 9909 2555; e-mail: mreidpl@intercoast.com.au.

DECEMBER/DÉCEMBRE 1998

3rd Arab International Equine Exhibition for Horse and Equipment. December 8-11, 1998 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Exhibits: apparel, boots, hats, and accessories; associations, racing authorities, owners and jockeys; bloodstock agents and services; breeders and breed societies; carriages and coaches; clubs, schools, training houses, tour operators, and trekking centres; equestrian performing acts; farms and pastures; health, nutrition and grooming; media; medical services; stabling, flooring, and bedding; and tacks/saddlery. Registration deadline is September 15, 1998. Contact: Al Fajer Information and Services, P.O. Box 11183 Dubai, United Arab Emirates; tel.: +971-4-377727; fax: +971-4-378788; website: www.al-fajer.com; e-mail: alfajer@emirates.net.ae.

Small Animal Basic Ultrasound Workshop. December 19-20, 1998 in Bedford Hills, NY. Two-day basic abdominal/cardiac workshop. Physics, instrumentation, normal anatomy and physiology, 15 CE credits awarded. Contact: Marion Peles at Universal Seminars, Inc., 299 Adams Street, Bedford Hills, NY 10507. Tel: 914-666-8664 or 800-842-0607; Fax: 914-666-2454; E-mail: mvbush@juno.com.